

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2207
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2207, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to advance
biosecurity within the State.

More specifically, the measure:

- (1) Establishes a Biosecurity Government-Industry Working Group;
- (2) Protects the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and the counties, and their officers, employees, and authorized agents, from liability when the Department or county enters private property to control or eradicate pests;
- (3) Authorizes, and requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to adopt rules regarding, the use of monofilament netting for purposes of protecting plants against invasive species under certain conditions; and
- (4) Renames "government-industry agreements" to "biosecurity government-industry agreements."



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and one individual.

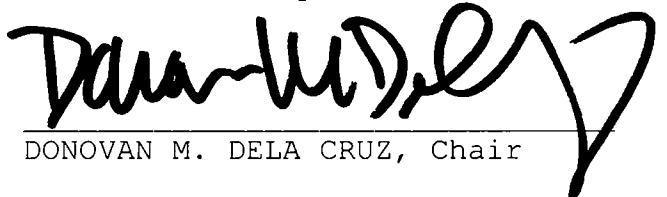
Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and University of Hawaii.

Your Committee recognizes that the coconut rhinoceros beetle and other invasive species and pests can have devastating impacts on native plants and the State's economy. Your Committee finds that the use of fine mesh nets, as contemplated by this measure, can mitigate these impacts and help protect vulnerable plants. Your Committee also finds that as efforts to remove pests are essential to protect the environment, it is important for the State and counties to have some protection from legal liability when circumstances necessitate that pest removal efforts be conducted on private property. Your Committee believes that the new working group established by this measure, specifically in making policy recommendations regarding plant inspection and quarantine, pest management and other areas of biosecurity, will also help advance the State's efforts to eradicate invasive species.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making it effective upon its approval.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2207, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2207, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,



DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB2207, HD2, SD1	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 4/6/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes